

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /064 W
-----109725 082024Z /73

R 081550Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO USINFO WASHDC
USCINCEUR-ECAP
USNMR SHAPE
SECSTATE WASHDC 943
USIA WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 5193

PASS IEU
SECSTATE FOR EUR/WE DURKEE;EUR/RPM FOR MADDEN
SUIA FOR IOP/F

E.O. 11652:N/A
SUBJECT: EAST-WEST ARMAMENTS DEBATE

1. INTERNATIONAL SECTION JULY 8 ABC (CONSERVATIVE)
INCLUDES TWO PAGES ON TOPIC OF NEW WEAPONS. HEADLINES
AND EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

2. "THE PENTAGON PREPARED AN ANTISATELLITE BOMB --
STILL IN DESIGN PHASE -- CONTROLLED FROM THE EARTH,
IT WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH NON-NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES."

3. "HAIG REQUESTS MORE NUCLEAR FORCE FOR NATO --
WITHOUT TAKING A POSITION ABOUT THE NEUTRON BOMB."
ARTICLE FOLLOWING INCLUDES EXCERPTS FROM HAIG STARS
AND STRIPES INTERVIEW.

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4. "THE NEUTRON BOMB ALREADY HAS BEEN TESTED -- CARTER
WILL DECIDE ABOUT ITS CONSTRUCTION NEXT MONTH." NEW
YORK CORRESPONDENT JOSE MARIA CARRASCAL WRITES: "POLEMICS
ABOUT THE NEW BOMB ARE ALREADY IN THE NEWSPAPERS, THE
CONGRESS, THE STREET. IT IS PRESENTED AS A 'CLEAN BOMB,'
THAT KILLS BY RADIATION, THAT IS, WITHOUT CAUSING THE
UTTER DESTRUCTION OF THE OTHER TYPES OF ATOMIC BOMB.

BUT THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT MAKES ITS CRITICS INDIGNANT:
THAT IT IS SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST PEOPLE.

5. "IN A CERTAIN SENSE THE NEUTRON BOMB IS THE PERFECT
CAPITALIST WEAPON: IT KILLS PEOPLE, BUT CONSERVES THAT
PROPERTY...THE PRECISION OF THESE ARMS IS SUCH THAT THEY GO
THROUGH THE ARMOR OF A TANK WITHOUT HARMING ITS MECHANISM,
ALTHOUGH KILLING ITS OCCUPANTS...AS A (PENTAGON) EXPERT
SAID, 'THOSE WHO CIRITICIZE THIS BOMB SHOULD REALIZE THAT
ITS ALTERNATIVE IS TO PUT TOGETHER A CONVENTIONAL ARMY
SIMILAR TO THE SOVIET.

6. "THOSE WHO OPPOSE...DO SO FOR AN OBJECTION ON
PRINCIPLE: ARE NOT THE UNITED STATES THE COUNTRY WHERE
HUMAN LIFE IS HELD IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM?... A
NEWSPAPER REPORT IS NOT THE PLACE TO MIX INTO SO HOT
A MORAL AND STRATEGIC DEBATE. I LIMIT MYSELF TO
PRESENTING THE POINTS OF VIEW OF BOTH SIDES...AND TO
ADDING A MELANCHOLIC CONSIDERATION: WE HAVE RECENTLY
HEARD MORE AND MORE TALK OF ARMS AND LESS OF NEGOTIATIONS,
AS IF THOSE WHO LEAD THE WORLD WERE BEGINNING TO THINK
THAT IT IS ARMS AND NOT NEGOTIATIONS WITH WHICH TO
RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES."

7. ""THE SOVIETS ACCUSE WASHINGTON FO RELAUNCHING THE
ARMS RACE -- JAPANESE AND GERMANS ARE ALSO OBJECTS OF
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THE RUSSIAN CRITICISMS." RAMON PEDROS WRITES FROM
MOSCOW: "MOSCOW HAS OPENED A TRIPLE FRONT OF DIALIECTIC
TO SEE IF, BY REDOUBLING ITS WORKDS, IT CAN SLOW DOWN
JAPAN, GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES, FROM SMALLEST
TO LARGEST, IN ORDER OF ACCUSATIONS."

8. FOREIGN EDITOR ANTONIO ALFEREZ CONTRIBUTES WRAP-UP
COMMENTARY ENTITLED "THE NUMBERS OF DESTRUCTIONS."
ALFEREZ VISITED NATO IN APRIL AS USIS MADRID GUEST.

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9. "IN NUCLEAR TERMINOLOGY THERE IS A TRULY TERRIFYING WORD, MAD...MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION. THE PHILOSOPHY IN REGARD TO THIS PRINCIPLE IS SIMPLE ENOUGH: THE APOCALYPTIC POWER OF THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET ARSENALS IS SO DEMOLISHING THAT NEITHER OF THESE POWERS WOULD EVER DARE TO USE THEM.

10. "THE NUMBERS SHAPING THIS BALANCE OF TERROR RE APPROXIMATELY THE FOLLOWING: 8500 AMERICAN WARHEADS AND 4000 SOVIET. THE APPARENT DISPARITY IS COMPENSATED FOR BY THE GREATER POWER OF THE SOVIET WARHEADS...THE PARALYZING PRINCIPLE OF THE MAD THEORY SUFFERED AN IMPORTANT BLOW SOME DAYS AGO, THOUGH THE LEAD OF... AN ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT IN THE UNITED STATES BY A GROUP OF INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR EXPERTS...ACCORDING TO THE STUDY, THE 'MAD PRINCIPLE' HAS NO VALIDITY. THE CAUSES FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN INFERIORITY ARE DIVERSE:

11. "THE U.S. WEAPONS ARE MUCH MORE PRECISE, BUT MUCH LESS POWERFUL THAN THE SOVIET. THAT IS, THEY ARE IDEAL FOR DESTROYING A TARGET, BUT NOT AGAINST A LARGE URBAN ZONE.

12. "THE SOVIET UNION HAS DEVELOPED A VERY ACTIVE CIVIL DEFENSE SHELTER PROGRAM OVER THE PAST YEARS; IN ADDITION THERE ARE FREQUENT TRAINING EXERCISES TO ACCUSTOM THE POPULATION TO THE TACTICS OF DISPERSION... THE SOVIET POPULATION IS VERY DISPERSE; THE AMERICAN

IS CONDENTRATED...

13. "THIS AND SIMILAR STUDIES ARE MAKING MORE THAN ONE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICAN DEFENSE NERVOUS. THE ANTISATELLITE AND NEUTRON BOMBS, THE CRUISE MISSILE, THE M-X, ARE EFFORTS BY AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY TO COUNTER THE POTENTIAL ADVERSARY...

14. "IF THE KREMLIN, WHICH DEDICATED LAST YEAR 42 PERCENT MORE THAN THE AMERICANS TO DEFENSE, ACCUSES THEM FO 'RELAUNCHING THE ARMS RACE,' IT WOULD BE DUE TO A SEVERE NEAR-SIGHTEDNESS."

15. "JULY 15 ARriba (PRO-GOVERNMENT), DEVOTES FULL PAGE TO WEAPONS ISSUES. HEADLINES: "ON THE ARMS ISSUE -- MOSCOW ATTACKS ISSUES. HEADLINES: "ON THE ARMS ISSUES -- MOSCOW ATTACKS WASHINGTON AND BONN." "THE NEUTRON BOMB WAS TESTED -- THE NATO SUPREME COMMANDER REFUSED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER THE PLACING OF THESE ARTIFACTS IN EUROPE INTERESTED HIM."

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16. OTHER MADRID DAILIES CARRY STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF TOPIC ON INTERNATIONAL PAGES.

17. SPANISH TV U.S. CORRESPONDENT JESUS HERMIDA ALSO REPORTED ON ALLEGED TEST NEUTRON BOMB ON JULY 7 EVENING NEWS. ITEM. RYLANCE

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Status: NATIVE
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